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## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Arrival of Soviet Advisors in Bulgaria  
 2. Military Maneuvers in 1957  
 3. Recall of Reserve Officers for Short Training Period  
 4. Political Indoctrination Courses for Reserve Officers  
 5. Inspection and Registration of Transportation.

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report containing the following information :

- a. The arrival in Bulgaria of a large number of Soviet advisors was noted in 1957. They participated in the Bulgarian military maneuvers and some were assigned to military staffs and units as advisors.
- b. Military maneuvers held from 20 September to 26 October 1957,
- c. Recall of reserve officers for a period of training in August 1957,
- d. Political indoctrination courses for reserve officers, and
- e. Inspection and registration of civilian transportation by military authorities from 2 - 5 January 1958.

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Arrival of New Soviet "Military Specialists"

A new incoming wave of "Soviet specialists" was observed last year, on the occasion of the initiation of large-scale maneuvers in Bulgaria, in which the entire army took part and which were a part of the maneuvers of the so-called "southern wing" of the Warsaw military defense pact.

The Soviet officers who arrived as observers on that occasion are still in Bulgaria.

Every military unit has its Soviet "advisers"; some units have as many as 40 of these advisers. A considerable number of field Soviet officers have been "added" to the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army and to the Ministry of Defense.

In the army units garrisoned in the "Greater Sofia" area, these specialists number 600. When they are not on duty, they generally appear in civilian dress.

The Soviet military specialists in Bulgaria hold ranks ranging from lieutenant to colonel. The field officers have young Bulgarian officers as their aides; the latter also serve as interpreters.

Many of these "specialists" arrived in Bulgaria accompanied by their families, and the Bulgarian authorities provided for their settlement in houses intended expressly for them.

The Soviet "specialists" have occupied some government buildings constructed by the inmates of the central prison of Sofia and located on Evlogi Georgiev Boulevard, in one of the most beautiful districts of Sofia, including one of the most modern palaces of the city, a 70-apartment building located near the intersection of Patriarch Evtimiy Boulevard and Evlogi

Georgiev Boulevard. Other buildings which they have occupied are located on Rakovska Street, on Tolbukhin Boulevard, on Gurko Street, and elsewhere. The Soviet specialists who came to Bulgaria without their families have been lodged in a wing of the large new hotel on Lenin Square and in the first-class Hotel Vitocha.

Special separate restaurants with Russian cuisine and so-called "tea rooms" have been opened for the Soviet military specialists; these places are maintained by the Bulgarian-Soviet associations, but they are really Russian clubs. The best-equipped restaurant with Russian cuisine is located on Graf Ignatiev Street, near the Kultura motion picture theater, and the "tearoom" most frequented is located on Aleksandur Stamboliyski Street.

Those Soviet specialists who marry Bulgarian nationals are provided with apartments in a building located at 66 Ivan Vazov Street.

Every Soviet military specialist, regardless of whether he has a family with him or not, has at his disposal the free service of a Bulgarian soldier, who has taken a Russian language course in advance. Soviet military specialists also have free personal guards at night who are soldiers of the Sofia garrison.

What task do the Soviet military specialists in Bulgaria perform, and what is their mission?

The majority of the specialists regularly attached to the Bulgarian military units instruct the latter's personnel in the use of arms supplied by the USSR and others, in order to get the Bulgarian armed forces to "adopt" modern strategy and tactics. The best-trained specialists are advisers or instructors in the Bulgarian educational institutions which train the non-commissioned officer and officer cadres for the Bulgarian armed forces.

Courses in which Soviet military specialists serve as instructors have been organized at Bulgarian Army General Staff and at the headquarters of

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the four corps of the peacetime army. Similar courses have also been organized at the most important garrisons, and it is compulsory for future officers to take these courses.

Every Soviet military specialist in Bulgaria comes under the jurisdiction of the "delegate" of the General Headquarters of the Warsaw Defense Pact, Lieutenant General Zamorev, who is at present also adviser to the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army. This general lives, with his family, at Gornaia Bania, in a villa requisitioned by the state and taken care of by the students of the Khristo Botev People's Academy for reserve officers.

The pay of the Soviet officers is equated with that of Bulgarian officers of the corresponding rank and is received at the army unit to which they are attached, or directly from the Army General Staff, in case they are not attached to any specific unit. The pay is computed, however, according to that of "Bulgarian officers on mission," that is, with "mission bonus" and "daily allowances," so that their pay is actually doubled. (A captain of the Bulgarian Army, commanding officer of a company, receives 1,200 leva, and a Soviet officer of the same rank and with the same duties, but with the qualification of "specialist," receives 2,250 leva).

The Soviet "military specialists," like the industrial specialists, are not regarded favorably by the Bulgarian people. In the barracks they are not liked by either the [Bulgarian] officers or the soldiers. The "specialists" live without trying to make acquaintances or friendships in Bulgarian circles; if anyone offers them friendship, however, it is readily accepted. They do not stay in Bulgaria for more than 6 months, since they are regularly replaced by others coming from the USSR.

### Large-Scale Military Maneuvers

From 20 September to 26 October 1957, large-scale military maneuvers were held in Bulgaria within the framework of the so-called "southern wing" of the "Warsaw Military Defense Pact." Rumania, Bulgaria, and Albania participated in these maneuvers. The maneuvers were directed by Bulgarian officers and observed by Soviet, Polish, and Czech officers; they were held in the Burgas, Karnobat, Yambol, Elkhov, Topolovgrad, and Khaskovo areas. Four armored brigades with about 640 tanks participated. Participating for the first time were two armored brigades equipped with 65-ton T.54 tanks. After the completion of the maneuvers, there were large-scale shifts of military units for the purpose of alternating the military garrisons. Thus, the headquarters of the Second Army was again transferred from Plovdiv to Khaskovo. Some army units stationed in northern Bulgaria were transferred to the vicinity of the Turkish-Bulgarian border. There was talk in officers' circles to the effect that the tactical atomic artillery also participated in these maneuvers.

The military airport located in the vicinity of Krumovo Plovdiv [Okrug], which was abandoned after World War II, has been restored and put into shape to accommodate jet fighter planes.

### Recall of Reserve Officers for a Period of Training

The calling up of officers of the special corps for a 3-month training period and of infantry officers for a one-month training period began in August 1957. This training was not carried out in the barracks, where regular army units were lodged, but in special camps where the officers who were called up continued to dress as civilians. These training camps for recalled officers were located in various places: in Sofia for signal communications personnel, tankmen, and engineer corpsmen; in Radomir for the infantry; in Kolarovgrad for the artillery; in Lom for demolition personnel, cavalry, etc. The officers called up were promoted to the next higher rank after completing this period of training.

Reserve officers loyal to the Communist regime and belonging to the classes of 1926, 1927, and 1928 are at present undergoing this training. Officers loyal to the regime, holding the ranks of first lieutenant, captain and major, and born during 1914-1919, also have been called up to attend a "special course for battalion commanders."

Reserve officers who hold positions of responsibility in production administration or industry were exempted from such training and were given the promotion to the next higher rank as a "party prize." Those who hold positions in the government received their normal pay during the training period, as well as a "mission bonus," while those not in government employ did not receive any compensation. Traveling expenses were paid by the persons involved. The men called up carried out a period of training in their own branch of the armed forces, while the women (government employees) carried out a period of training with the Bulgarian Red Cross.

#### Political Indoctrination Courses for Reserve Officers

These courses have been instituted in every military district of Bulgaria. Reserve officers are obliged to attend a 2-hour lesson twice every month in the military district in which they are registered (or in that nearest to their home). At these courses they hear political lectures or reports, or the latest information on the modernization and perfecting of military strategy and tactics. These courses are given without consideration as to party loyalty or rank. Political officers of the military districts give the courses. The lessons are given outside regular working hours, and the officers take them in alphabetical order (reserve officers whose last names begin with A or B attend on the first and fifteenth of the month).

Examinations were given at the end of 1957 and those who made the best grades were rewarded with small gifts.

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Inspection and Registration of Means of Transportation by Military Authorities

The registration and inspection of means of transportation were carried out in the Sofia District from 2 to 5 January 1958. This was done at two places in the city, one in the Podueme Market area, and the other in the former warehouses of the Toplivo Company, located in the Ivan Vazov district. All types of trucks, tractors, automobiles, three-wheeled and two-wheeled vehicles, horses, mules, and wagons, harness for horses, saddles, etc., were inspected in 2 days.

Every owner of means of transportation received a military registration book containing the data about the means of transportation itself and the place where it is to be delivered in case of mobilization. These books also mention the laws providing penalties for those who fail to keep their means of transportation in good condition; these penalties run from 3 to 6 years imprisonment, and from 3 to 15 years imprisonment for those who give false information on their means of transportation to the military authorities.

In case a means of transportation is sold, the new owner is obliged to report this to the military district in order that the change in ownership may be registered.